15

Claims

What is claimed is:

1   1. A computer controlled object oriented programming
2   network system for distributing selected application
3   programs from a provider to a plurality of a customer's
4   client computers comprising:
5   a customer server computer connected to said
6   plurality of client computers;
7   means associated with said server computer for
8   storing a Hypertext Markup Language document including:
9   an embedded program applet for selectively
10   accessing each of said application programs being
11   distributed, and
12   an embedded installation applet for accessing a
13   program for installing said application programs
14   being distributed on said client computers;
15   means associated with at least one of said client
16   computers for selecting one of said application programs
17   for installation; and
18   means responsive to said selection of said
19   application program for sending said installation program
20   to the client computer that selected said application
21   program.

1   2. The computer controlled network system of claim 1
2   wherein said Hypertext Markup Language document is a
3   World Wide Web document.

1   3. The computer controlled network system of claim 2
2   further including means for transmitting said World Wide
3   Web document to said customer server computer over the
4   World Wide Web.

1   4. The computer controlled network system of claim 2
2   further including means for sending at least one selected
3   application program to the client computer that selected
4   said program.

1   5. The computer controlled network system of claim 4
2   further including:
3   means in said client computer for storing said
4   installation applet; and
5   wherein said means for sending said at least one
6   selected application program to said client computer
7   sends said application program after said installation
8   applet is stored in said client computer so that said
9   installation applet may access said installation program.

1   6. The computer controlled network system of claim 5
2   wherein said means for storing said installation applet
3   in a client computer stores said installation applet only
4   if said installation applet has not been previously
5   stored in said client computer.

1 7. The computer controlled network system of claim 6
2 wherein said client computers further include a user
3 interactive World Wide Web browser, said World Wide Web
4 browser including:
5 said means associated with a client computer for
6 selecting one of said application programs for
7 installation; and
8 means controlling said storing of said installation
9 applet only if said installation applet has not been
10 previously stored in said client computer.

1 8. The computer controlled network system of claim 7
2 further including means associated with said World Wide
3 Web browser for caching the stored installation applet.

1 9. In a computer controlled object oriented programming

2 network system, a method for distributing selected

3 application programs from a provider to a plurality of a

4 customers' client computers comprising:

5   storing in a customer server computer connected to

6 said plurality of client computers, a Hypertext Markup

7 Language document including:

8   an embedded program applet for selectively

9   accessing each of said application programs being

10   distributed, and

11   an embedded installation applet for accessing a

12   program for installing said programs being

13   distributed on said client computers;

14   selecting at one of said client computers, one of

15 said application programs for installation; and

16   responsive to said selection of said application

17 program, sending said installation program to the client

18 computer that selected said application program.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein said Hypertext Markup

2 Language document is a World Wide Web document.

1 11. The computer controlled network system of claim 10

2 further including the step of transmitting said World

3 Wide Web document to said customer server computer over

4 the World Wide Web.

1 12. The method of claim 10 further including the step of

2 sending at least one selected application program to the

3 client computer that selected said application program.

1   13.   The method of claim 12 further including:

2   the step of storing said installation applet in said

3   client computer; and

4   wherein said step of sending said at least one

5   selected application program to said client computer

6   sends said application program after said installation

7   applet is stored in said client computer.

1   14.   The method of claim 13 wherein said step of sending

2   said installation applet to a client computer stores said

3   installation applet only if said installation applet has

4   not been previously stored in said client computer.

1   15.   The method of claim 14 further including user

2   interactive World Wide Web browser programs, said World

3   Wide Web browser programs including the steps of:

4   selecting at one of said client computers, one of

5   said application programs for installation; and

6   controlling said storing of said installation applet

7   only if said installation applet has not been previously

8   stored in said client computer.

1   16.   The method of claim 15 wherein said World Wide Web

2   browser includes the steps of caching the stored

3   installation applet.

1   17.   A computer program having code recorded on a
2   computer readable medium for distributing selected
3   application programs from a provider to a plurality of a
4   customers' client computers in a computer controlled
5   object oriented programming network system, said computer
6   program comprising:
7   a customer server computer;
8   means associated with a server computer connected to
9   a plurality of client computers for storing a Hypertext
10 Markup Language document including:
11   an embedded program applet for selectively
12   accessing each of the application programs being
13   distributed, and
14   an embedded installation applet for accessing a
15   program for installing said application programs
16   being distributed on said client computers;
17   means associated with at least one of said client
18 computers for selecting one of said application programs
19 for installation; and
20   means responsive to said selection of said
21 application program for sending said installation program
22 to the client computer that selected said application
23 program.

1   18.   The computer program of claim 17 wherein said
2   Hypertext Markup Language document is a World Wide Web
3   document.

1   19.   The computer program of claim 18 further including
2   means for transmitting said World Wide Web document to
3   said customer server computer over the World Wide Web.

1   20.   The computer program of claim 18 further including
2   means for sending at least one selected application
3   program to the client computer that selected said
4   application program.

1   21.   The computer program of claim 20 further including:
2   means in said client computer for storing said
3   installation applet; and
4   wherein said means for sending said at least one
5   selected application program to said client computer
6   sends said program after said installation applet is
7   stored in said client computer so that said installation
8   applet may access said installation program.

1   22.   The computer program of claim 21 wherein said means
2   for storing said installation applet in a client computer
3   stores said installation applet only if said installation
4   applet has not been previously sent to said client
5   computer.

1   23.   The computer program of claim 22 wherein said client
2   computers further include a user interactive World Wide
3   Web browser program, said World Wide Web browser program
4   including:
5   said means associated with a client computer for
6   selecting one of said application programs for
7   installation; and
8   said means controlling said storing of said
9   installation applet only if said installation applet has
10   not been previously stored in said client computer.

1 24. The computer program of claim 23 further including
2 means associated with said World Wide Web browser program
3 for caching the stored installation applets.

1 25. A Hypertext Markup Language document for
2 distribution of computer application programs to client
3 computers over the World Wide Web comprising:
4   an embedded object oriented program applet, each
5 applet for selectively accessing application programs
6 being distributed;
7   an embedded installation applet for accessing a
8 program for installing said application programs; and
9   user selectable hyperlinks to one of said embedded
10 applets.

1 26. The Hypertext Markup Language document of claim 25
2 further including a user selectable install hyperlink to
3 automatically install in client computers, the
4 application programs accessed by said embedded program
5 applets.

1 27. The Hypertext Markup Language document of claim 26
2 wherein said embedded object oriented program applets and
3 installation applets are implemented in the Java object
4 oriented programming language.